Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part V

[F5F19-F] "Mixed Feelings" (1929)

Family Records Series -- Edison Family Papers -- Mina Edison Papers

Title
[F5F19-F] "Mixed Feelings" (1929)

Description
This 7-page essay, entitled "Mixed Feelings," was written by Mina Edison on October 20, 1929—the day before the opening and dedication of Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. This event was intended to coincide with the Golden Jubilee (fiftieth anniversary) of Edison's invention of the incandescent light. While appreciative of the "great honors that are being paid my husband," she expresses her concern that "Menlo and Electric Light idea is made so prominent that all the other great inventions and work is almost forgotten" and her belief that the laboratory in West Orange and the home in Llewellyn Park must be kept as the "real shrine." An accompanying note indicates Mrs. Edison gave the document "for preservation" to Norman R. Speiden, a family friend who subsequently became curator of the Edison National Historic Site (now Edison National Historical Park) in West Orange.

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Identifier

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Type

Family Records

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Alternative Title

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[F5F19A], Essay, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 20th, 1929

Title
[F5F19A], Essay, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 20th, 1929

Author
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- West Orange Laboratory
- Seminole Lodge and Fort Myers
- Menlo Park Laboratory
- General Electric Co
- Golden Jubilee (1929)
- Ford, Henry
- Edison Institute

Date
1929-10-20

Type
Essay

Subject

- Expositions, demonstrations, lectures
- Electric light and power

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Sunday - Oct. 20 - 1929

Mixed feelings.
Feel sad to think Seminole
Lodge was disturbed by
taking away the little
laboratory - Feel that
Muscle and Electric Light
idea is made so immo-
mentous that all the other
great accomplishments are
made to abundant for-gotten
General Electric getting
more definitely established
in homes Power Company
load increased -
Range laboratory must

and Llewellyn Park
must be kept the real
Shrine - Prevent the
little court at the
laboratory for a grim
museum - Talk over
with boys -
Little laboratory from
Seminole Lodge, Fort
Myers absolutely forgotten
already where in Fort
Myers it had its place -
Real Menlo Laboratory
would have been much
more a tribute to
Edison if it had been

left in Nevada - Here
in time it will be
forgotten or a secondary
matter when the Institute
will be the living thing -
This side of it is simply
a play thing for me -
Ford and no one will
hear the second sentiment.
We must collect all
interesting things for
Range Museum -
Get as many duplicate
things of Mr. Ford that
we can, such as books

of History, etc.
Most everything here has been electrical lighted.
We got his magnified telegraphic key, etc. and other things.
To me it would have been a far greater thing if Mr. Ford had made the Edison Institute here altogether but had kept the laboratories in their own setting and surroundings where making their fame in park effect

Praising his homes
and places for all
time - I do not approve
of disturbing historical
Spots. Let things be
just and surround the
historical Spots with
beauty - I cannot enter
into this with the whole
hearted appreciation
having these feelings -
I think it a most
magnificent thing of
Mr. Ford but I regret
the method in abo-
rasion -

I feel that, dear, is
so much more than
electric light and that
the Light Jubilee is
one grand advertisement
for General Electric
and light companies,
that dear has just
been made the excuse.
It may be that the
people will not grasp
the Bible they may
have missed the glass
the Lord may have
been changed and
dear Queen has really

and visited them. I
am hoping that that
will be the case -
If only I had paid
something at Swidan
I could have the great
honour that am having
paid my husband
upon this great
occasion". What I
should have given -

This was written by
Mrs Thomas A. Edison.
N.R. Spencer
11/7/67